

The Downfall of Licinius

127

with the reactionary policy of Lieinius, which had at length culminated in active persecution.

But the dominant cause of this war is to be found in political ambitions rather than in religious passions, and if we must declare who of the two was the aggressor, it is difficult to escape throwing the blame upon Constantine. Licinius was advancing in years, Even if he had not outlived his ambitions, he can at least have had little taste for a campaign in which he put all to the venture. Constantine, on the other hand, was in the prime of life, and the master of a well tried, disciplined, and victorious army. The odds were on his side, He had all the legions which could be spared from the Rhine and the Danube, and all the auxiliaries from the Illyrian and Pannonian provinces the best recruiting grounds in the Empire to oppose. to the legions of Syria and Egypt. Constantine seemed to have the high ps to his advantage in the church, but the real pride which drew him on was universal dominion.

This time both the Emperor and the Senate made, the members of the Senate and the people of the Empire, the Nigellus, Zensimus and the rest of the nobility, Cœlius and the rest of the nobility, the naval harbour at Thessalonica. It contained two hundred war ships and two hundred transports, which he had built in half a dozen yards. He had built them, if Xanthus had been the architect, Iosephus, infantry and Artabanus, Hiatus and Mavatry. Licinius, on the other hand, had a force of 150,000 men; and these numbers were trumpery or not, it is evident that